

**WEST POINT TOWN COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION  
MINUTES  
January 28th, 2014  
5:30 P.M.**

**1. Water Rates**

John Edwards, the Town Manager advised that the last water rate increase was in 2004 and that if the Town continues to operate with the current rates, the Water Department will be operating in the Red.

Walt Feurer reviewed a power point presentation showing fee options and advised that consumption has decreased over the past few years, the operating cost will not decrease it will continue to increase. Option 1 keeps the rates as they are. Option 2 increases the minimum bi-monthly rate by \$14.90 and the greater than minimum rate per 1,000 gallons by 40 cents. Option 3 increases the minimum bi-monthly rate by \$10.00 and the greater than minimum rate per 1,000 gallons by 60 cents; there is no increase to the bulk rate with any of the options.

Mrs. Ball advised that the increase on option 2 is a big increase and it will be hard for the residents that live on a fixed income to manage the increase.

Mr. Shreaves asked how many customers are there that do not use more than 6,000 gallons of water?

Walt Feurer advised there are a total of 637 water connections, half use less than 6,000 gallons bi-monthly.

Mr. Lawson suggested the Town consider sending bills out monthly instead of bi-monthly. It is easier on the consumer to pay a smaller monthly bill than a larger amount bi-monthly.

John Edwards stated that it would cost more to read the meters each month and to do the paperwork for the billing.

The consensus of Town Council was for the Water Rates to be placed on the February Public Works Committee meeting for discussion.

Mr. Edwards advised there is a joint meeting of the Finance Committee, Public Safety and Public Works Committees at 4:30 p.m. on February 13<sup>th</sup> 2014.

**2. Budget 2014-15 Presentation**

Mr. Edwards presented Town Council with the department budget request for 2014-15 and stated that the School Board has not submitted their budget request, however the Superintendent is advising the proposed School Budget has a \$285,000 increase. The initial Town Budget is the same as last year and includes the following changes: 1) The creation of the Human Resource Department: 2) The Police Department is reduced due to the LEOS, the LEOS comes out of a different line item: 3) There is a slight increase in the Public Works that includes the purchase of a new tractor: 4) Funds are in the budget for Banners and Christmas decorations for the lamp post: 5) There are funds to purchase one vehicle. We are still waiting for a letter from the Attorney General's office for notification on the award of funds to purchase two vehicles for the Police Department. Mr. Edwards also stated that Springstead Corporation are working on the salary study, the preliminary information that we have received shows that the Town is about 50% low on our average salary, there is a small amount of funds built in the budget to cover salary adjustments.

Mr. Edwards advised there is a joint meeting with the School Board scheduled for March 4<sup>th</sup> 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the School Board office. The next Town Council budget work session is scheduled for February 13<sup>th</sup> 2014 at 4:30 pm.

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James H. Hudson, III  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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Karen M. Barrow  
Town Clerk